

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) A method, for detecting presence or absence of a motor vehicle prescribed heat exchanger, comprising the following steps which are performed during motor vehicle operation:

(S1) observing temperature of a heat-exchanger medium and at the same time observing further current motor vehicle operationally relevant parameters for a given time window;

(S2) determining an expected time gradient of the temperature of the heat-exchanger medium;

(S3) determining a current time gradient of the temperature of the heat-exchanger medium; and

(S4) detecting the presence of a prescribed heat exchanger based on the expected and the current time gradients of the temperature of the heat-exchanger medium.

wherein method step (S1) comprises the following substeps:

(S1-1) measuring values of the temperature of the heat-exchanger medium in predefined time intervals and plotting the time profile of these values; and

(S1-2) measuring values of the operationally relevant parameters at predefined time intervals and plotting the time profiles of these values; and

wherein method step (S2) comprises the following substeps:

(S2-1) comparing the plotted current operationally relevant parameters with predefined values;

(S2-2) determining an associated current operating state in accordance with this comparison; and

(S2-3) determining the temperature gradient expected in this current operating state.

20.-21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) A method for detecting presence or absence of a motor vehicle prescribed heat exchanger, comprising the following steps which are performed during motor vehicle operation:

(S1) observing temperature of a heat-exchanger medium and at the same time observing further current motor vehicle operationally relevant parameters for a given time window;

(S2) determining an expected time gradient of the temperature of the heat-exchanger medium;

(S3) determining a current time gradient of the temperature of the heat-exchanger medium; and

(S4) detecting the presence of a prescribed heat exchanger based on the expected and the current time gradients of the temperature of the heat-exchanger medium,

wherein method step (S4) comprises the following substeps:

(S4-1) comparing the current and expected time gradients of the temperature of the heat-exchanger medium;

(S4-2) taking into account this comparison result with reference to a predefined threshold value;

(S4-3) incrementing at least one counter in accordance with the comparison result from substep (S4-2);

(S4-4) carrying out method steps (S1) to (S4) until a predefined counter reading is reached; and

(S4-5) outputting data signals when a prescribed heat exchanger is present.

23.-30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for detecting the presence of a motor vehicle prescribed heat exchanger, comprising:

the motor vehicle prescribed ~~motor~~ heat exchanger having a heat-exchanger medium ~~of~~ for a motor vehicle motor;

a measuring system for measuring the temperature of the heat-exchanger medium; and

an evaluation device for evaluating data for detecting the presence of the prescribed heat exchanger wherein the evaluation device comprises:

a memory device for storing values of time profiles of measured values;

a data memory for storing data including predefined threshold values and operating state data; and

at least one counter.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 31, wherein the evaluation device is a constituent part of a motor vehicle on-board computer.

33. (Canceled)